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Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02958 211615Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SY-05 SS-15 NSC-05 A-01
L-03 PM-04 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /053 W
----------028974 211626Z /43
P 211534Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4360

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR LE US
SUBJ: MELOY ASSASSINATION

1. HAVE JUST SEEN JOE FITCHETT'S JUNE 19 STORY IN HERALD TRIBUNE ABOUT MELOY ASSASSINATION. THIS IS CAREFULLY PUT TOGETHER MIXTURE OF INFORMATION HE GOT FROM US AND FROM LOCAL PALESTINIAN AND LEBANESE SOURCES. FOR THE RECORD, FITCHETT CAME TO SEE ME ON ANNIVERSARY OF MELOY DEATH AND ASKED WHAT HAD HAPPENED ABOUT FOLLOW-UP. I TOLD HIM WE CONTINUING TO INVESTIGATE MATTER AND HAD ALSO REQUESTED LEBANESE TO DO SAME. WE HAD SOME IDEA ABOUT WHO MIGHT HAVE DONE THE JOB BUT NOTHING CONFIRMED. AT SUCH TIME AS WE WERE CERTAIN WHO HAD DONE IT, THERE WOULD PROBABLY BE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT BY US OR LEBANESE. I DID NOT KNOW WHEN THAT WOULD BE AND REFUSED ALL COMMENT ON WHO WE THOUGHT MIGHT BE RESPONSIBLE.

2. FITCHETT ASKED IF WE THOUGHT ASSASSINATION WAS ACCIDENTAL OR HAD BEEN CAREFULLY WORKED OUT PLAN. I SAID IT APPEARED TO BE LATTER. HE SAID THEN ASSAILANTS MUST HAVE HAD SOME INTELLIGENCE REGARDING MELOY'S MOVEMENTS. I SAID THAT WOULD SEEM TO BE THE CASE. FITCHETT ASKED WHETHER THIS ASSASSINATION WAS INSPIRED BY LIBYA OR SOME OTHER ARAB POWER, I SAID I DID NOT KNOW BUT WE WERE NOT IN POSSESSION OF EVIDENCE POINTING FINGER AT ANY PARTICULAR FOREIGN POWER.
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3. FITCHETT THEN CAME UP WITH STORY THAT SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY HAD ADMITTED ASSASSINATION IN CLOSED DOOR MEETING. I SAID THAT NEWS TO ME.

4. AS INDICATED ABOVE, FITCHETT HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH UNSPECIFIED PALESTINIAN AND LEBANESE SOURCES. HE CLAIMS PLO REFUSED

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COMMENT ON SUBJECT.

5. HAVE USED SIMILAR LINE WITH OTHER JOURNALISTS WHO HAVE ASKED ABOUT SAME MATTER, TELLING THEM THAT INVESTIGATION IS CONTINUING ON BOTH AMERICAN AND LEBANESE SIDE AND THAT WHEN AND IF WE HAVE DEVELOPMENTS WE WILL ENNOUNCE THEM. WE HAVE REFUSED TO BE DRAWN INTO DISCUSSION OF IDENTITY OF KILLERS OR OUR SUSPICIONS THEREON.
PARKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ASSASSINATION, JOURNALISTS, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2087542
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MELOY ASSASSINATION
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, LE, US, (MELOY, FRANCIS E JR), (FITCHETT, JOE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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